

COLD IN THE TROPICS

EXPERIENCE OF FRENCH EXPEDITION IN WILDS OF ANDES.

Average Height in Which Explorers Lived and Worked Was 13,000 Feet Above Sea Level—Hard to Secure Servants.

Paris.—A scientific expedition which has spent six years in the wilds of the Andes has just returned to France and Col. Bourgeois, its chief, has given some remarkable details of its experiences. It was organized to make a new set of observations from which to verify the length of a degree on the equator—the unit upon which the French standard of measurement and the metric system are based.

The site chosen for the work was the neighborhood of Quito, Ecuador. It was so high up in the mountains that although in the very center of the tropic zone the men lived under arctic conditions. The party consisted of ten commissioned and 27 noncommissioned officers. With three exceptions the entire party spent the entire six years in the work. One of those who gave up was Commandant Massenet, who preceded Col. Bourgeois at the head of the expedition.

Loneliness was one of the things the men had to fight hardest against. They lived to a large extent amid fields of snow and ice. The country below them was often invisible from clouds hanging about the mountains.

Yet their situation differed from that of arctic explorers in this respect, that they knew thousands of people were within comparatively easy reach. The temptation to descend to the seacoast cities was therefore almost irresistible at times.

Of course the men did not spend the whole time in the mountains. This would have been almost impossible, because they had not merely the vigor of the cold to contend against but also the enervating effects of the rarefied atmosphere of the mountains. The average height at which they lived and worked was 13,000 feet above sea level. Cooking was difficult at that elevation and the proper feeding of the men was one of the most difficult problems. Another practical difficulty was securing servants and laborers. The natives consented to go into the hills only at high pay and on urgent persuasion and they deserted at the least provocation. The winters were especially trying. Bands of wolves wandered about the camp and devoured the refuse thrown out even to old leather straps and the worn-out saddles of mules and horses.

Notwithstanding the obstacles, 74 geodetic stations were erected. A chain of geodetic and astronomical observations covering the entire six years was secured, including the establishment of the meridian of Quito, with the nearest approach to scientific accuracy that is possible. The remaining error, it is said, is infinitesimal. The result of the observations was not worked out. This is to be done in Paris now by a corps of scientists.

The expedition cost a good deal of money. Besides the pay of the members the French government contributed 40,000 francs (\$8,000). The balance of the expenses, about \$20,000, has been subscribed by Prince Roland Bonaparte.

While the members of the expedition confined themselves strictly to their mathematical work, Dr. Paul Rivet, staff surgeon in the French army, who was detailed as its medical attendant, made a remarkable collection of photographs of the country and people and brought home also an invaluable ethnological gathering of native implements and fabrics.

MACHINE FINDS OIL WELLS.

Terre Haute Men Organizing Company to Sell Device.

Terre Haute, Ind.—Business men of Terre Haute have formed a \$25,000 stock company to put a device for locating oil wells on the market. Oil well men call it an "oil smeller." Its owner, Harry Kurtz, of Princeton, Ind., says it will tell if there is oil even at a depth of 1,650 feet.

The machine is not disclosed to the public yet, but Kurtz says he has been experimenting with it for two years and that it has never failed. The presence of oil under the surface of the earth is made known by an electrical reaction process, and Kurtz says that with the machine he has selected the location for 80 wells, mostly in the Illinois field, with which it is now thought Terre Haute is connected.

The Standard Oil company's representatives have leased many thousands of acres in this part of Indiana, and big independent operators have done likewise.

Taking advantage of the speculative fever, local promoters have formed companies and are offering the stock under glaring advertisements in the newspapers.

Harmless Duels Fadd in Paris. Paris.—Fencing clubs are the most popular of French sporting clubs. When Dr. Devillers last year introduced the harmless bullet to fencing it immediately "caught on." Now there are several clubs, and a number of them are being arranged this season to hold "tuffe" duels. The harmless bullet can be used in a duel, and it is wonderfully safe. The duellists wear masks and gloves, but otherwise the conditions are those of the real duel.

HAS ONLY ONE BRICKLAYER.

Lone Student in School Founded by Andrew Carnegie.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The School of Bricklaying, intended to be one of the most important departments of the great \$10,000,000 technical schools which Andrew Carnegie founded here, has one scholar. The daily routine which the future knight of the trowel goes through and the staff of instructors maintained solely for him is causing much comment.

When Mr. Carnegie founded the technical schools he insisted that the departments first opened must be those for the purpose of teaching young men to become expert artisans. Bricklaying looked as if it might be popular here, and the school of bricklaying was the first in commission. While other departments were quickly filled up with scholars the bricklaying game didn't seem to appeal to Pittsburg's young men, but finally one student applied.

After passing the necessary examination Daniel Chisholm was enrolled and began his studies at the school after paying his fee of \$20 a year. To teach prospective bricklayers there had been engaged by the school a professor at a salary of \$15 a day and an expert bricklayer, who receives six dollars, or the union wage.

A NATURAL BAROMETER.

Stone That a St. Louis Man Says Foretells the Weather.

St. Louis.—A storekeeper on South Broadway has a piece of stone about as large as a man's fist in which he places more confidence as a weather indicator than he does in all the weather bureaus of the country.

He brought it with him from Germany when he came to St. Louis many years ago, and although his German neighbors told him that the stone would not work in America he finds that it operates about as well in Missouri as it did in the old country.

He says there is a mine of it in Saxony and another somewhere in Russia, and that in parts of both countries near to the mines many country people provide themselves with lumps of the stone for use as family barometers. It is composed of limestone, almost as soft as chalk, with nitre, clay and rock salt.

When the air is dry the stone is a light gray, with white spots of salt and nitre, but when the air is filled with moisture and a storm is coming on the salt and nitre turn black. The principle is recognized in the manufacture of one or two patent fancy barometers, but whether the inventors took the hint from the stone cannot be ascertained.

MAKES COPPER IN LABORATORY.

English Chemist Discovers New Method of Producing the Metal.

Baltimore.—Dr. Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins university, is authority for the statement that Sir William Ramsay, a famous chemist of Cambridge university, has discovered the method of making artificial copper, and the great discovery will be made known to science when Sir William will read a paper on the subject before the Royal Chemical society of Great Britain.

Prof. Remsen, who is prominent as a chemist, has a private letter from the famous Englishman stating that Sir William has succeeded in accomplishing the production of copper by the synthetic or combining process from the elements, sodium, lithium and potassium.

A combination of these elements treated with radium vapor, gives as a product copper sulphate, which is readily broken down into copper.

Make Clothes from Paper.

Washington.—Correspondence between Consul W. J. Pike, of Zittau, and the president of the chamber of commerce of that German city reveals that there is a firm in South Germany which makes paper clothing. Just what wears these garments is not divulged. Following is an extract from the letter to Consul Pike.

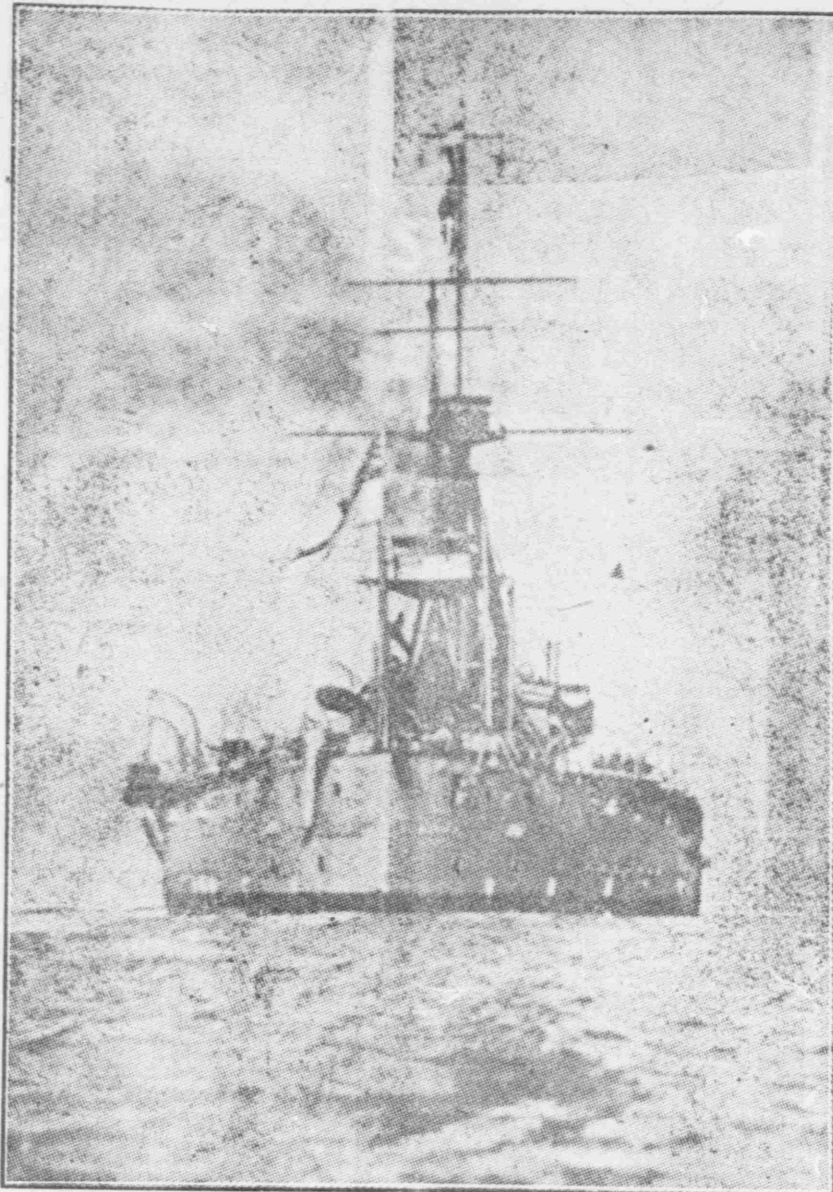
"In our district, so far as we are informed, yarns of woolen and cotton, mixed with paper, are not produced. If such is the case in other parts of Saxony we are not aware of the fact. From parties versed in this matter we learn that a material is spun, outside of Saxony, from a paper stuff obtained from wood and known as silvalin. The spinning of this silvalin yarn has up to the present only been done by a firm in South Germany. In Saxony the manufacture of such materials has never passed the trial stages.

KAISER'S PHONOGRAPH CLOCK.

Novel Timepiece Reminds Him of Day's Engagements.

Berlin.—It is not generally known the kaiser possesses the most unique clock in the world, a so-called phonograph clock made by a German inventor. The clock reminds the emperor of business and other engagements. When the kaiser, for example, wishes to be at the chancellor's house at ten o'clock in the morning, he speaks into the phonograph the night before, which moves a pointer and is called at the hour indicated. The phonograph graciously announces: "Your majesty, it is now time to call a carriage and go to Chancellor von Buelow's." Moreover, when the kaiser is at breakfast the clock tells him a dozen or more things which he spoke into the phonograph the night before so as not to forget them.

British Battleship Dreadnought.



Largest and most powerful battleship afloat.

HITS MARK FROM AFAR

NEW HONOR TO ROOSEVELT AS LONG-DISTANCE SHOT.

President Stands in Washington and Makes a Fine Rifle Score in the Opening Event for Marksmen in Charleston, S. C.

Charleston, S. C.—President Roosevelt may congratulate himself on being the champion long-distance rifle shot of the world. Standing in Washington, he shot a rifle three times and hit a target each time in this city, more than 450 miles away. While he did not make a bull's-eye, he yet managed to get within the 24 circle twice and the 21 circle once, and so scored 69 out of a possible score of 75, a very creditable performance for a person who shoots only between sessions of congress, international incidents and other big and engrossing things.

The occasion of the target practice of Mr. Roosevelt was the opening of the fifth triennial schuetzenfest of the National Schuetzen Bund of America, in Charleston. It was the wish of the riflemen to have Mr. Roosevelt there in person, so that they could show him that a rifle could speak as well in German as in rough rider. As he was busy in Washington, the president could not oblige, but he wanted to shoot, and did so.

Here the secret must come out. Mr. Roosevelt did not use the White House as his shooting gallery, despite the strenuous reports that sometimes find their way past Pete, the bulldog. Strategy was used, and Lieut. W. Melton Farrow was the strategist. It must be confessed that Lieut. Farrow aimed the gun, but President Roosevelt shot it off, and the record is his.

Lieut. Farrow brought a 32-caliber rifle made by him several years ago, and after three weeks' work adjusted it on a pedestal on which it could be held for shooting at the target. Attached to it was a magnetic contrivance, which, by the completion of an electric circuit, pulled a delicate hair trigger and did the shooting. The button to complete the circuit was in the White House.

But the bare pleasure of pressing the button was not all that the president was to have for his part in the performance. Near the rifle was rigged a big telephone receiver, and when Mr. Roosevelt made his shots he was able to hear the welcome crack of the rifle.

Gov. Ansel then conveyed to the president the congratulations of the National Schuetzen Bund and its guests on the excellent score he had made and the thanks of them all for opening the fest. The band played "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and there was a great salvo of cheers. The president said that he could hear the cheering and the music very distinctly, and he was sure that everybody was having a jolly time, and he would like to be with them.

Substitute for Beeswax.

A substitute for beeswax has been discovered in the leaves of the raff palm, a product of the island of Madagascar. The wax is extracted by the simple process of beating the dried leaves on a mat to small bits. The particles are then gathered and boiled. The resultant wax is kneaded into small cakes. Experiments are being made with the new substance to find out its commercial value—whether it may be used for bottling purposes, in the manufacture of phonograph cylinders, etc.

BERLIN POSTAL TUBES.

Connect the Central Office with the Principal Stations.

Berlin.—The Berlin postal authorities are revolutionizing the conveyance of letters and parcels.

The idea on which they are experimenting is to have an underground tube with a large enough circumference to admit a man in a stooping posture. These tubes are to connect the central post office with the principal stations and with the district offices.

Two sets of rails are built in this tube or tunnel, one over the other, not side by side. The upper set of rails is supported on the sides of the tube, thus practically dividing it in two. Small carriages, running on two wheels, are automatically driven by electricity along these rails.

No locomotive is used nor is there any attendant with the carriage. As many as six of these carriages can be run together for conveying letters and parcels from the arrival station to the central post office and thence to the various district, or vice versa.

By this means letters can be delivered in any part of the city in less than a fourth of the time formerly required. So far the scheme is not beyond the experimental stages, but it promises to be a success and to banish from the streets the mail van, with all its poetry and romance.

PICTURES WARN WORLD'S END.

Whole Maryland Community Excited Over Strange Phenomenon.

Hancock, Md.—Intense excitement prevails here, and many persons are preparing for the end of the world, as the result of a series of remarkable pictures representing scenes that look like heaven and hell that have appeared on the walls of a room in the house of Emory Lopp, in Morgan county, West Virginia, two miles from here.

Some persons who have viewed the pictures say that no human hand could have placed them there. The whole neighborhood is aroused over the strange affair, and crowds of people are visiting the house. The superstitious believe that the pictures foretell some catastrophe, probably the end of the world.

The pictures appear in distinct outline on the four walls, showing pits of flame and demons, while others show angels and beautiful scenes, supposed to be heaven.

Lopp is at a loss to understand the mystery, and has abandoned his home. A thorough investigation of the matter will be made by skeptical persons.

SCIENTISTS VICTIMS OF A HOAX.

Discovery of Antiquities on Island Is Found to Be a Fake.

Paris.—That the practice of "salting" claims is becoming quite Europeanized is fully shown by a hoaxing of the grave Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. Last August Dr. Capitan read a learned paper on the discovery of Egyptian antiquities on a small island off Marseilles. Discussion promptly followed, in which new theories of the history of civilization were constructed on the discovery which seemed on the way to becoming epoch-making until the other day, when Dr. Capitan read a second paper, apologetic and explanatory. An old man living in the island on whose property the antiquities were found told very ill and confessed he had bought the objects from a Marseilles curio dealer and had strewn them on his property in hope it would be purchased for excavations.

WEALTH AWAITS BOY

WILL FORFEIT \$50,000 IF HE DOES NOT RETURN SOON.

Thirty Years Ago, When a Mere Youth, John Wilson Left Home After Quarrel with Parents—No Word from Him Since.

Omaha, Neb.—John Wilson will receive a fortune of approximately \$50,000 if he shall return to his old home at Tecumseh within the next three years to reclaim it. If he fails to return within that time the money will go to relatives of his.

A strange, sad story is the story of this man to whom a fortune has been left, but who will probably never know it. Thirty years ago when a mere boy Wilson had a quarrel with his father, John Wilson, Sr., a proud, unyielding old Scotchman, and in the heat of anger he ran away from his home at Tecumseh.

His father, believing that he would soon grow tired of taking the buffings of the world and return to his home, made no effort to find the boy, and would permit no one else to do so.

The days lengthened into weeks, the weeks into months and the months into years and young John Wilson did not return to his home. His father loved him and longed for his return, and his mother was well nigh heartbroken over his absence, but the father's longing and the mother's grief were futile.

Twenty-five years went by and no word had come to the parents concerning their absent son, now grown to manhood if he were living. They were grown old and before they went to their final rest they felt that they must once more look into his face.

A man whom they suspected might be their son was in Dawson City, Alaska. Despite the fact that they were 80 years of age the parents set out for there hoping against hope that they might find the son whom they so longed to see. They made the journey to Alaska safely, but found no trace of their son there and returned to their home with broken hearts. Within a few months the father died and soon afterward the mother followed him to the grave.

Seven years ago the aged couple made a will in which a large part of their estate was bequeathed to their absent son on condition that he returned to Tecumseh within ten years to claim it. In the seven years that have elapsed since the will was drawn the son's part of the estate has increased until it is now estimated at \$50,000. It will be held for him three years longer. If he shall not return to his old home meantime the will provides that the bequest shall be divided among the other heirs of the dead man and woman.

The other heirs have sought to have the will set aside and to secure a division of that part of the estate left to the son, but the supreme court has held that the will must stand and that the \$50,000 must be held for the son three years longer.

Where young Wilson has been in the 30 years of his absence from his old home nobody in Tecumseh knows. He may be dead; he may be in Alaska or the Philippines.

His long absence and their disappointment at their failure to find him in Alaska shortened the lives of his parents, who were old residents of Tecumseh and very highly respected by their neighbors.

HOW NEW WORLD GOT ITS NAME.

Albany Man Tells Story on 400th Anniversary of the Event.

Paris.—John Boyd Thacher, of Albany, on Sunday mentioned the fact that it was the four hundredth anniversary of the naming of America. He said that no attempt had ever been made to commemorate the event and added:

"The new world was named America in a little book written by Martin Waldseemueller, printed at Saint Die, in the Vosges mountain, on the seventh of the kalends of May in the year 1507. The seventh of the kalends of May when corrected by the Gregorian calendar becomes May 5.

"There was also an element of universality in the ceremony of naming, for it was a German who proposed the name, it was an Italian name, the book was printed in France and the language employed was Latin, the universal medium of mental exchanges. It may be too late to celebrate the event, but it should not be too late to recall the fact that the new world received its name just 400 years ago."

EAT SWEETS, SAYS DOCTOR.

Sugar Most Strengthening and Chocolate Antidote for Fatigue.

London.—A noted Harley street physician bids fair to become the most popular physician in London, especially among the youth of both sexes and among the dentists. Everybody should eat at least a quarter of a pound of sweets daily is his dictum.

"Nothing," he says, "is more strengthening than sugar. It is possible to work for hours after eating four ounces of chocolate without feeling the slightest fatigue. If I had my way every soldier in the British army should be allowed a quarter of a pound of sweets every day. My practice is to take five or six lumps of sugar in every cup of coffee or tea."

Asked as to toothache, the physician replied: "I can only advise people to clean their teeth oftener."

ODD DROUGHT FOR A TOWN.

Grant, Mich., Will Go Dry Till Some One Builds Hotel.

Grant, Mich.—At a special meeting of the Grant village council the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 to 1:

"Resolved, That we, the council of the village of Grant, Newaygo county, Mich., do declare that we will hereafter approve of no saloon bonds within the corporate limits of said village of Grant, except when the proposed saloon business is to be connected with a hotel, as hotel bar, such hotel to be constructed of brick, stone or other substantial material, other than a frame building, and steam heated.

"Provided, that whenever any responsible party or person shall own, in fee simple, a suitable location within said village, and shall contract for the erection thereon of a suitable hotel building, to be erected within three months of the date of said contract, of sufficient proportions, then we, the said village council, will immediately grant a license for a saloon, to be conducted in connection with a hotel.

"Provided, further, that a copy of the contract, giving specifications for the building proposed to be erected, shall be filed with the clerk of said village council."

Grant has long ago outgrown her hotel service, every day from one to ten persons being unable to obtain accommodations. This condition has so interfered with the welfare of the town that the council has said "to the first man who contracts to give us ample care for our growing hotel business we will immediately grant a liquor license. Until such time, we go dry."

As Grant, with her numerous little industries and a genuine building boom now on, is a splendid location for a first-class hotel, it is probable that the field will not be open ten days.

IS TOO FAT TO DROWN.

300 Pound German Floats Like Cork When He Attempts Suicide.

New York.—Discovering after repeated efforts to drown himself, that he floated like a cork, an obese German bent on suicide decided to try to end it all by some other method than that of immersion. His efforts at suicide in the Atlantic basin moved the dock loungers to unfeeling mirth. The unhappy Teuton, who appeared to weigh about 300 pounds, walked to the end of the Porto Rico line pier, and with a last look around jumped into the water.

"It's all over," he said as he took the leap.

But it did not end. Coming up from his dive, the fat man floated face upward. Again and again he tried to dive under the surface, but his body merely rolled over, and each attempt found him floating with his face upward.

He was trying for the fifth time to sink himself when Watchman William Walsh jumped in and tied a rope around him and hauled him ashore. He was taken into the boiler room nearby, where he was dried out. While the watchman was deciding what to do with him the German slipped out and disappeared.

HETTY GREEN TO PAY RENT.

No Longer Free Private Office in Chemical Bank.

New York.—Hetty Green will have to pay office rent in future. No provision whatever has been made for her in the new banking home of the Chemical National bank. For many years the "richest woman in the world," who is one of the largest stockholders of the bank, had a private office in the old bank building rent free. She will now have to content herself with sharing the handsome quarters provided for all the women stockholders and depositors on the first floor.

Whether or not Mrs. Green is dissatisfied with this arrangement is not known.

The new building is built of granite and marble, only three stories high. It cost \$600,000. Six different kinds of marble imported from Italy have been used in decorating the interior, and figures of Ceres, Boreas, Helios and Neptune, representing earth, air, fire and water, join the arches. The doors are of bronze, artistically molded.

DATES WILL YEARS AHEAD.

Gives Nothing to Husband, So It Will Be Contested.

Middletown, N. Y.—Because Mrs. Mary E. Blakeney, of Central Valley, dated her last will and testament 90 years ahead and cut off her husband, Otis Blakeney, from participating in her property, the instrument is being contested and about \$10,000 in a Newburg bank will stay there for some time to come.

Mrs. Blakeney, who was a prominent resident of Central Valley, died there recently. Her will, which she drew up herself, was dated 1993. It bequeathed all her property to a niece, Mrs. Virginia Weeks, of Fairfield, N. J. It is believed Mrs. Blakeney meant to date her will 1903. On the back of the instrument is a codicil which provides that anyone trying to break the will or start any litigation shall be excluded from any benefits in it. She leaves nothing to her husband, but states that if the niece who gets the property should wish to give the husband anything she is at liberty to do so.